



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

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News Release

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Red Lake Man Pleads Guilty to Murder

Minneapolis - A member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians pleaded guilty today in federal court to a murder on the Red Lake Indian Reservation. Jacob John Lussier, also known as Jacob John Martin, pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree murder in connection to the September, 2006, shooting death of Harley James Sayers.

Court documents indicate that on September 30, 2006, the Red Lake Department of Public Safety received a call that someone had been shot at a home on the reservation. When officers arrived at the scene, they were directed to the back of the residence. There they found a deceased man on the ground, the apparent victim of a fatal gunshot. That man was later identified as Sayers. In entering his plea before United States District Court Judge Michael J. Davis this morning, Lussier admitted he had shot Sayers twice with a twelve-gauge shotgun.

The parties in this action agree to recommend to the court a federal prison sentence of twenty-four years and three months. The actual sentence, however, will be determined by Judge Davis and imposed at a hearing not yet scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Red Lake Department of Public Safety. The prosecutors in the matter are Assistant United States Attorneys Nathan P. Petterson and Michael A. Dees.

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